

# MRS. POTTER'S STORY OF THE WHITECAPS.

Stripped Naked in the Street, Struck and Threatened with Tar, Feathers and Hanging, and This in a Modern Massachusetts Town, and in the Twentieth Century.

How Masked Men Came to Her Home and Dragged Her Forth as She Herself Told It Under Oath on Witness Stand, Transcribed from the Official Stenographic Notes.

The Evening World presents to-day the first detailed account of Mrs. Clara F. Potter's shameful mistreatment by whitecaps at Marion, Mass., as she herself has told it under oath on the witness stand at Plymouth. Transcribed from the court records—the official stenographic notes—the story of this event of yesterday seems rather to have been copied from the annals of the witch-burnings by the Puritans of two centuries ago than the sober proceedings of a trial court of modern Massachusetts.

After the usual introductory questions as to age, residence, &c., which elicited the information that she is thirty-three years old, all of which she has passed as a member of the community, some of whose members she accuses of subjecting her to treatment which would have aroused surprise and indignation even had it been told of a border settlement, Mrs. Potter's examination proceeded as follows:

## The Woman's Story.

Q. Now, you know James McDonald? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long had you and your husband known him on Aug. 6; about how long? A. About a year. He lived during that time at Joseph Collins's in Marion.

Q. And about when did he come to live at your house? A. Feb. 12.

Q. Did you make any arrangements with him about taking boarders? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And did you take any boarders, transient or otherwise? A. Yes, sir.

Q. He continued to live there until down to Aug. 6, did he? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you at home during the afternoon and evening of Aug. 6? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And who were in the house? A. Mr. McDonald and my husband and myself and my little boy.

Q. And at some time during the evening, during the early part of the evening, did anybody come to the house? A. Yes, sir. Somewhere about 8 o'clock.

Q. How do you fix the time? A. I had just put my little boy to bed and was getting ready to go to bed and I thought I would wind up the clock.

Q. How was your attention first attracted to the fact that there was somebody at the house? A. I first heard somebody knock at the door.

Q. Where were you then? A. I was in the kitchen.

Q. What happened after the knock came? A. Mr. McDonald opened the door and three gentlemen came in.

Q. Who were they? A. Mr. William Potter, my husband's brother; Mr. Bumpus and Mr. Bates.

Q. These three defendants of those names? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, what happened after that? A. I went back into the sitting-room and lay down on the lounge, and perhaps ten or fifteen minutes after that these three men went out.

Q. You did not hear any conversation between them? A. No, sir.

Q. After they had gone out where did you go? A. I went into the dining-room into the kitchen. I took the clock off the shelf and wound it and put it back, and started to go into the dining-room, and I thought I heard some one come on the doorstep. I said "Hark!"

And just then some one knocked at the door. Mr. McDonald opened the door and I heard a terrible noise, and I started to go into the dining-room and partly closed the door, and I heard this noise and turned around and opened the door and looked out.

Invaded by Masked Men.

Q. Tell us what you saw? A. I saw a lot of masked men coming in the house. Q. Now go on and tell us what happened from that time on? A. I saw a lot of masked men coming in the house and I saw Mr. McDonald and a lot of masked men around him in the further corner in the kitchen.

Q. What were they doing and what was he doing? A. They seemed to be around Mr. McDonald, and they seemed to be keeping him in, I should say I was about a dozen feet from him, and I kept behind the dining-room door until some one spoke and I looked out to see who spoke, and Mr. McDonald turned and looked toward the dining-room door and said: "Get that revolver." And as I started into the sitting-room a masked man started after me.

Q. All the men that came into the kitchen at that time had masks on had they? All that I saw.

Q. And were you able to recognize any one of them at that time? A. No, sir.

Q. Go and state what happened after that you saw it and heard it? A. I had just got into the sitting-room door and a masked man grabbed me by the arm, and I said "Let me alone." He kept trying to pull me out of the sitting-room into the dining-room.

When he got out into the kitchen I saw that my lamp was tipped over.

Q. At that time was the kitchen empty? A. Yes, sir, there was nobody in there.

## Thought of Her Child.

Q. Go on. A. I said "Look at my lamp. Oh, let me pick up my lamp." And he pulled me right along, and I grabbed hold of the door casing and said: "I won't go till you let me pick up my lamp." And the door was there on the floor. And I said "You have broken my door down." And when we got to the door I put my hands against the door casing and hollered "Murder" as loud as I could scream, and he didn't say anything. And I happened to think of my child upstairs. I said "Let me get

## WOMAN VICTIM OF THE MASSACHUSETTS WHITECAPS AND ONE OF THE MEN ACCUSED



MRS. CLARA F. POTTER.

NOBLE E. BATES.

rest of my under-clothing off of me and threw them ahead of me on the ground, in the street.

Tar and Feathers Suggested.

Q. Now, at any time during that incident as you have described it, did this man put his hand on your person? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And then he told me that they would give me the same dose that they were giving this man McDonald. He said that was a coat of tar and feathers—if I ever said anything about this at all whatever they would hang me; that they had a good mind to now as it was. And I cried and asked them not to hang me, and I asked them to let me go into the house; and they asked me if I would behave myself, and I said I always behaved myself, and he said "You lie, you haven't," and he slapped me in the face real hard.

Q. Did he call you any names during this? A. Yes, sir. He called me bad names.

Q. Go on. A. In trying to get away from him I hit my hand against his coat and I saw that he had a coat in some way I hit my hand against the coat, and he had a lantern under his coat, and I tried to see his face; and he said "Bring that light." And no one started, and finally this fellow said: "I give this thing to you, you charge." He spoke to this man that stood in front of him, this third man.

Q. When you got to the house who was there? A. Mr. Turner was standing in the doorway, and when I got in the kitchen there was a masked man stood there and Mr. Potter.

Husband Looked On.

Q. Your husband? A. Yes, sir.

Q. You and your husband stayed in the house the rest of the night? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Just where was it on the sidewalk, with reference to the gate that the clothes were taken from you as you describe? A. Right in front of the gate.

Q. On the sidewalk there? A. Just a little bit further on.

Q. Was your attention called after that, a short time after that by any body? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does that look like the piece you saw? A. Yes, sir.

Torn Garments in Evidence.

Q. Will you take those underclothes out and look at them and see if you recognize them? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is that? A. That is the house.

Q. Is that the condition it was in that night that you came in the house? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was it whole at that time? A. It was.

Anything else there? A. Yes; my skirt.

Q. That does not appear to be torn. You say that was unfastened and pulled down, and you stepped out of it? A. Yes, sir. It broke the string.

Q. Did you see McDonald again that night? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see him again the next day? A. No, sir.

Q. Some days after this happened did you have any talk with the defendant, William H. Potter? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the conversation, Mrs. Potter, as near as you can recall it, about what occurred that night, if anything? A. I asked him how far he got that night, he and the two fellows that were with him, before they fell in with the rest of the crowd and he says: "That masked crowd that was here; you know what I said," and he said: "I ain't supposed to tell."

Q. He said what? A. He said he wasn't supposed to tell. I asked him, and he said: "Why don't you tell me?" "Well," he says, "if I tell you it will only be giving the boys away, and that I must not do." And I says: "Why not?" And he said: "If I give the rest of the boys away it will be giving myself away, and that would not do." And I said: "Who are the rest of the boys?" And he said: "That remains for you to find out."

Q. That was practically all that was said? A. Yes, sir.

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You may choose of these three styles, all of which are tailored to appeal to the most fastidious dressers, at a price that makes them unusual values. \$25.00

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That would kindle the enthusiasm of the most matter-of-fact. They combine dress and service to a nicety. Unusual, but doubly so at the prices for which we offer them.

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With long Middy Trousers. Sizes 3 to 8 years. Value \$7.00. Special at \$5.00

Jack Tar Reefers of all-wool blue Chin-chilla, fast color, military buttons, embroidered emblem on sleeve. Sizes 3 to 8 years. Value \$6.50. Special at \$5.00

Boys' Overcoats of all-wool Frieze, light or dark Oxford, made with velvet collar, lap seams, five rows of stitching on cuffs. Sizes 7 to 16 years. Value \$6.50. Special at \$5.00

Boys' Overcoats of Frieze, three shades from which to select, velvet collar, Farmer's satin or serge lining; exceptionally well made. Value \$8.50. Special at \$6.50

Boys' Blue Flannel Blouse Waists, made with collar or neck band; sizes 7 to 12. Value \$1.25. Special at 95c.

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\$2.50 Hats for Men at \$1.75  
Either stiff or soft, in all the popular standard blocks and colors. You cannot find better at \$2.50 anywhere.

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The man who drives and the man who walks will find their Glove needs anticipated in the most exhaustive fashion, from the heavy Tan Cape Glove at \$1.00 to Fur-Lined Gauntlets at \$12.00. The following are for the man who drives:

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Men's one-clasp and one horn button hand-sewed English Cape Gloves.

Puritan, \$2.00.

Men's one-clasp Prix seam Cape Gloves, rip-proof seams.

Men's strap Driver Prix seam Cape Gloves.

Men's clutch Driver Prix seam Cape Gloves, combination of Cape and Mocha leathers, at \$2.25

Men's Fowner's grip Driver Prix seam Cape Gloves, at \$2.50

Men's clutch Driver one-button Gloves, combination of Cape and Mocha leathers, at \$2.50

Men's strap Driver, hand sewed Prix seam Cape Gloves, at \$3.25

## The Men's Furnishing Shop

Sends but one representative. It is indicative of the values throughout the entire shop.

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## Apparel for Girls.

The difficulty of finding apparel to please the taste and fancy of both you and your daughter is in our shop reduced to a minimum. We have such a variety that most any person of good taste will find it expressed in more than one garment.

### Girls' Coats.

Three-quarter length, of fancy cloth, double cape, velvet collar; sizes 6 to 14 years. Value \$9.00. At \$5.75

### Girls' Coats.

Three-quarter or full length, of plain and fancy cloth, velvet or braid trim; sizes 6 to 14 years. At \$7.50

### Girls' Coats.

Three-quarter or full length, of Kersey, Cheviot or Novelty Coatings, trimmed with handsome braids or velvet; sizes 4 to 14 years. Values \$13.00 to \$16.00. At \$9.75

### Girls' Long Coats.

We have selected from our stock a dozen styles of high-grade Kersey, Melton, Cheviot and Chin-chilla Coats, which we offer at the uniform price of Values \$17.00 to \$24.00. \$14.50

### Girls' High Grade Dresses.

Of Varrig, Silk, Poplin, Canvas, Broadcloth or fancy weaves; sizes 6 to 14 years. Values \$21.00 to \$55.00. At \$16.75 to \$42

### For Misses or Small Women

### Misses' English Box Coats.

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Full flare, in Oxford and Black. Value \$6.00. At \$4.75

### FOURTH FLOOR.

## The Sporting Goods Shop

must be understood to be appreciated. Do you know of another shop wherein your every requisite for the leisure hour, both in paraphernalia and apparel, can be found? We don't. Nor do we know of another that can supply one of them at our price.

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Listed at \$14.00, at \$9.25

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St. Andrew's Golf Clubs, in iron or wood, at 55c each

Kempshall Golf Balls, thoroughly seasoned; value \$2.00, per dozen, at.....\$1.25

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